

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for managing the configuration of telecommunications networks and/or computer networks with proximity keys. A proximity key can be embedded in or removably coupled to a cable. Data can be stored in the key that uniquely identifies the cable to which the key is attached. A proximity key reader can be placed on a network device or in a portable device. A reader coupled to a network device can contain information that identifies the device to which it is attached. When the proximity key on the cable and the proximity key reader are brought near each other the reader reads the data in the key. A control unit can use the cable and device identification data to confirm a proper connection between a cable and a device and to document which devices are connected by which cables.